

# Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

December 10, 2012

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

## Important Dates

December 13	Math test
December 21	Ethnic Fest
December 21	Rocket into Reading Begins
Dec 24 - Jan 4	Winter Break

## Dear Families,

The 5th graders of Holmes school will be participating in an Ethnic Fest celebration on Friday, December 21st, from 1:30pm-2:30pm in the multi-purpose room.. In conjunction with our culture project we will celebrate our diversity with a tasting of favorite morsels from our various ethnic backgrounds. We have asked students to make or buy a batch of bite-sized servings of a favorite food from their ethnic background (a simple family favorite, or perhaps the recipe they use in their culture project this month). Please prepare/send enough to serve 25 people. The dish must be ready to serve as there is no way to heat at school. Nor can we refrigerate items. Please label the food by name and nationality, and be sure to put your name on any dishes that need to go home with your child.

***Label homemade food with all ingredients, or include list for store-bought items.***

***Please NO NUTS due to allergies.*** Please send the dish to school that day with your child, or deliver to the multi-purpose room by 1:15 p.m. Thank you.

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## Specials Night is Monday, January 14th at 6 pm!

Parents: you will get to see some of your student's achievements in art, music, physical education and Spanish! Every student in the 5th grade has a special part in the event so please send a note to Mrs. Karia if you are unable to attend.

**We need parent volunteers to help with leading classes from location to location and with taping the event. Please email Mrs. Karia at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org) if you can help!**

**Art** -[Dale Chihuly](#) is an American glass blower with colorful glass sculptures on display all over the world. We have looked carefully at his artwork and watched several videos on [glass blowing](#). Of course, we cannot blow glass, but we have found an exciting alternative. The results will be on display at Specials Night on 1/14.

**Music** - [Check out the website!](#) **Specials Night is Monday, January 14th at 6 pm!** Every student in the 5th grade has a special part in the night so please send a note to Mrs. Karia if you are unable to attend. We will be working on the pieces for the specials night over the next few weeks.

## Chorus-

**Spanish** - The fifth graders will continue work this week for Specials Night. We will be working on a song in collaboration with music class. Spanish blog: <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

**Library** - Congratulations to Luca C., Max G., and Dylan L.... this fall's Reading Olympics winners! It was a very close competition. Thank you to all the participants-- you did a truly amazing job. The spring competition is right around the corner, and I will be book talking these books in a few weeks. In the meantime, students will be working in small groups using CultureGrams to produce a final piece for the specials night. More about that next week! Please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>). Feel free to email the teacher librarian, Ms. Maneck, at [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org) with questions.

**Physical Education** - Please see Mr. Williams' link ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) for information.

### **Reading/Literature**

This week, we will continue reading the book Rules by Cynthia Lord as a class. So far, some themes we have seen being developed are friendship, acceptance and courage. Students will also continue reading their own novels and identifying the themes they see being developed. There will be a quiz on Friday on chapters 10-15 of Rules.

### **Language Arts**

This week in language arts we are beginning research for the Cross Curricular Culture Project students will completing in school during the week of December 17th. Next week, students will work on this project during Social Studies and Math class. Last week students were assigned to groups and given a country to research. In addition to researching about the geography, lifestyle and society of their country, they will design a meal that would be traditionally served during a winter celebration in that country, and analyze its nutritional content. Ultimately groups will create a cookbook highlighting important facts about the country and the recipes they analyzed.

### **Math**

Unit 5 assessments were returned today, along with a self-assessment. Please review the unit test with your child, sign the self-assessment and have your child return it to school. Your child will receive 5 Guilders for prompt return of the signed self-assessment.

This week we continue to work with adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators. Last week we discussed finding a common denominator using the least common multiple. This week, we will find quick common denominators by multiplying denominators. We will have a test on Thursday (last one before Winter Break!) which will cover common denominators as well as adding and subtracting unlike fractions.

### **Science**

Last week we introduced our new unit: Variables. We discussed the scientific inquiry method and read profiles of Sir Isaac Newton and Jane Goodall. This week, we will have a visit from a local scientist presented by the Oak Park Education Foundation's Science Alliance. We will conduct a lab on swingers, which will allow students to begin the process of forming a hypothesis and collecting data. Throughout the Variables unit, we will be conducting labs almost every week. We reminded students that if they miss Science class due to Band, Orchestra or Chorus, it is their responsibility to get lab data from a group member.

### **Social Studies**

This week we will continue our study of Colonial America. We will focus on what daily life was like in the New England colonies, as well as the Triangular Trade and the Salem Witch Trials. There will be a quiz on Friday over the New England Colonies.

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